



BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR - 1956

(Including the Report of the Chief Public Health)
Inspector.

BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:-

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR:-

Councillor J. Trickett

ALDERMEN:-

J. L. Carter.
Miss E.G.Castleman-Sm.
D.S. Cuff.
B.C. Hunt.

COUNCILLORS:-

W.B. Forrest.

E. H. Jones.

T.W. Fowler.

R.J.W.King .

D. Gent.

M.D. Portman.

P. Greenfield.

A. Powis.

G.R.J. Haskett.

Miss W.A.Williams.

F. Wyatt.

Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Winborne.

TO:-

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Blandford.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Dr. J.D.M. Mayes I submit for your
consideration the vital statistics of your district.

G.D. HOPKINS.

AUGUST+ 1957

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health

J.B.M. Mayes. M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

W.E. Ramm. M.R. San. I. M.S.I.A. R.P.

Veterinary Surgeon.

Major F. Beckett. F.R.C.V.S., and his staff (acting as Meat
Inspectors)

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS
1956

Area (in acres)..... 253
Population as estimated by Registrar General (mid 1956)....3,400
Total number of inhabited houses at 31/12/56..... 1,143
Rateable value, 1956..... £51.994
Product of a Penny Rate, 1956..... £203

LIVE BIRTHS.....64.		Standard Rate..... 17.1.	
		<u>Standard Rate.</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
		<u>Blandford</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
		<u>Administrat-</u>	<u>ive County</u>
Legitimate.....	58	33	25
Illegitimate.....	6	4	2
	<u>64</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>27</u>
		17.1	15.7. 13.8

STILL BIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 live and still births)

One Male still birth (legitimate)

<u>DEATHS</u> (All Causes)	54	21	33	12.4.	11.7.	12.5.
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DEATHS (from Puerperal causes)

Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis..... Nil
Other Puerperal causes..... Nil

INFANT MORTALITY

Legitimate.....	2	1	1
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

DEATHS FROM:-

Cancer (All Ages).... 4
Measles..... 0
Whooping cough..... 0
Diarrhoea (under 2).. 0

SECTION A.
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area..... 253 acres.

Population.....	3,400	(1956)
	3,490	(1955)
	3,620	(1954)
	3,657	(1953)

It will be seen that there has been a steadily declining population in four years, or 64 per year. Assuming that the average household numbers three and a half persons, building at the rate of eighteen houses per year would be necessary to arrest the decline in the population.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of infants dying under one year of age, was two, a figure which is too small to derive a reliable rate, and one has accordingly not been given.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken for the removal of any old persons in need of care and attention during the year.

Comparability factors applied:-

Births 1.00.

Deaths 0.78

SECTION D

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester continues to give the district generous service. The Laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infection or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castleman House. This service also covers the Rural District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an ante-natal clinic and an infant welfare clinic once a fortnight. These are held at Congregational Hall.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The County Home Help Scheme has provided a service in Blandford and the surrounding district. It is doing excellent work.

SECTION C

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER

11 cases were notified.

PNEUMONIA

1 case was notified.

MEASLES

1 case was notified.

WHOOPIING COUGH

4 cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

2 cases of Pulmonary T.B. were notified.

FOOD POISONING

3 cases of food poisoning were notified. The usual investigations were made but no cause was discovered.

At the end of the year, the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

PULMONARY

Male..... 7
Female..... 9
16

NON-PULMONARY

Male..... 1
Female..... 3
4

SECTION D
STATISTICAL TABLES - 1956
Causes of Death.

	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other forms.....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitis diseases.....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	-	-	-
11. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.....	1	-	1
12. Malignant Neo plasm, breast.....	-	-	-
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.....	3	-	3
15. Leukaemia.....	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.....	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	1	8	9
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	3	4	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	3	3
20. Other heart diseases.....	7	12	19
21. Other circulatory diseases.....	-	-	-
22. Influenza.....	-	1	1
23. Pneumonia.....	-	1	1
24. Bronchitis.....	2	-	2
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system.....	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28. Nephritis, Nephrosis.....	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases.....	2	2	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-	-
34. All other accidents.....	-	1	1
35. Suicide.....	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
TOTALS.....	21	33	54

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1956
Notification in Age Groups.

DISEASE.	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	65 & over.
MEASLES.							1					
WHOOPING COUGH		1	1	1			1					
PNEUMONIA.												1
SCARLET FEVER.....					2	5	3		1			
TUBERCULOSIS.....							1					1
FOOD POISONING.....				1						1	1	
TOTALS.....		1	1	2	2	5	6		1	1	2	1

SECTION E
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith respectfully submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

The report is on the same lines as in previous years and comprises, statistical information and my observations and recommendations.

The department has functioned smoothly and many outstanding matters have been dealt with or received attention with a view to action in the new year.

Public Health work and in particular I refer to work in connection with food premises, and to routine public health inspections, lags behind other fields of activity simply because of lack of staff and I should like to be in a position to do more in this side of my work but unfortunately cannot do so.

I should once more like to express my appreciation of the able support and assistance of Mr. Wilson in his capacity as Clerk of Works and to assure members of the Council that his employment in my department is of the utmost benefit to them in controlling expenditure.

SECTION 1

Statistical Information.

1. Record of visits and inspections.

The following number of visits and inspections have been carried out by myself and the Clerk of Works during the period 1st January 1956 to 31st December, 1956 inclusive. Last years figures only indicated my own visits and inspections:-

<u>In Connection With:-</u>	<u>Number of Visits or Inspecti</u>
Water undertaking.....	255
Sewage Works and Sewers.....	49
Swimming Baths.....	66
Recreation grounds and gardens, including Milldown and Allotments....	138
Municipal Buildings, Council Yard, Mortuary, Market and Public Conveniences.....	118
Refuse Service and Tip.....	11
Council houses.....	490
Infectious Diseases etc., investigated and visits in connection therewith.....	14

3. Water Undertaking (Continued)

Tlandford St. Mary Pumping Station had given little trouble but is now in operation for only about eight hours per day.

Even though frost precautions were taken at the Bryanston booster station, the frost cracked the main body of one of the pumps and this is being specially welded.

The total amount of water pumped during the water abstraction year was 129752790. The water abstraction year runs from 1st November, 1955, to the 31st October, 1956. This is again less than the previous year and seems to indicate that the water waste prevention campaign is having its just reward.

A total of 52 samples have been taken from various points in the Undertaking during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Dorchester.

Satisfactory	50
Suspicious	1
Unsatisfactory	1

Samples of water for Chemical Analysis have also been submitted to Arthur S. Carlos B. Sc (Lond) F.R.I.C., Public Analyst.

Tlandford St. Mary Pumping Station. 16th October, 1956.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results:- as part per million.

Ammonia, free.....	0.070
" Albuminoid.....	0.369
Nitrites.....	Nil
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	7.05
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 deg. F.....	0.093
" " " 4 hours " " " ".....	0.187
Chlorine.. ..	19.0
as Sodium Chloride.....	31.31
Hardness, temporary.	225.0
Hardness, permanent.....	25.0
Total.....	250
Total Solids.....	471.0
pH Value.....	7.4
Metals:- Iron, copper, lead, zinc absent.	
Appearance:- Colourless and clear.	
Odour:- None.	
Free Chlorine:-	

Remarks:- This is a very satisfactory water. It is of good organic purity and neutral in reaction.

The water is moderately hard in character but the majority of the hardness would be removed by boiling.

The results show no sign of pollution and in my opinion the water is very satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes.

In connection with:-Number of visits or inspections.

Highways.....	96
Building Byelaws and Town Planning.....	171
Food premises and food including Ice Cream Premises and Dairies.....	54
Petroleum Installations.....	23
Pest control.....	1
Public Health Acts.....	95
Housing Acts.....	67
Factories.....	24
Other visits not classified above.....	110.

2. Action taken under Acts of Parliament.

(a) <u>Public Health Acts.</u>	
No. of informal notices served.....	16
No. of informal notices complied with.....	15
No. of Statutory notices served.....	Nil
No. of Statutory notices complied with.....	Nil
<u>Factories Act and Regulations.</u>	
(b) No. of informal notices served.....	2
No. of informal notices complied with.....	1
No. of Statutory notices served.....	Nil
(c) <u>Housing Acts.</u>	
No. of informal notices served.....	1
No. of informal notices complied with.....	1
No. of Statutory notices served.....	Nil
(d) <u>Food and Drugs Act and Regulations.</u>	
No. of informal notices served.....	Nil
No. of informal notices complied with.....	Nil
(e) <u>Water Acts.</u>	
No. of inform. notices served or owners notified..	46
No. of informal notices complied with.....	45
No. of Statutory notices served....	15
No. of Statutory notices complied with.....	18

SECTION 113. Water Undertaking.

The lowest level in the borehole during the abstraction year was 43 feet in June, 1956, and in the shallow wells 6.5 feet in 1955. These levels are slightly higher than during the 1954 - 55 abstraction year.

There has been the usual amount of maintenance work at Black Lane during the year and in September serious trouble occurred in the large Tangeo diesel engine necessitating the renewal of the piston and liner and other modifications to the lubricating system.

Odour:- None

Free Chlorine:-

REMARKS:- This is a clear bright water of good organic purity. It is moderately hard in character, but the majority of the hardness would be removed by boiling.

The results show no sign of pollution and in my opinion the water is very suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

25th October, 1956.

Arthur S. Carlos. F. Sc. (Lanc)
Public Analyst.

Taking the water consumption over the period, 1955-56 abstraction year and dividing by the estimated population supplied say 6158 the consumption per head per day is roughly 57.7 gallons average.

At the end of this year a contract was signed for renewal of water services in East Street and Market Place and there is no doubt that this step is in the right direction to prevent waste of water. It will be my policy however, once the work is complete to re-check the services from the stop cocks into the houses to detect further leaks on the consumers' side of the services.

In the spring of the year, an extra man was engaged in waste water detection and the whole of the area covered by the Council's mains was inspected and water waste notices served as found necessary.

Approximate number of premises on Supply:-

Borough of Blandford Forum.....	1,442
Blandford Rural District.....	500

4. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The sewage disposal works have functioned reasonably well during the year.

I have obtained more evidence of infiltration of ground water into the sewers and very much regret that my investigations comprising the testing of isolated lengths of sewer, had to be curtailed when only about two thirds completed due to other pressing commitments. I hope to be able to complete this work in 1957 and render my report to the Council.

Maintenance work on the public sewers has been carried out as usual and 74 blockages have been cleared by the Council's workmen.

The following is a copy of the Public Analyst's report on a sample of sewage effluent and it will be seen that the Analyst comments adversely upon it.

Blandford Sewage Works, Outfall from humus tanks - 16th October, 1956.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results:- as parts per million:-

25th October, 1956

Arthur S. Carlos F. Sc. (Lond)
Public Analyst.

Black Lane Pumping Station - Borehole

16th October, 1956.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned Sample with the following results:- as parts per million.

Ammonia, free.. .. .	0. 041
Ammonia Albuminoid.....	0. 660
Nitrites.....	Nil
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen...	5. 03
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 deg. F.....	0. 140
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 deg. F.....	0. 234.
Chlorine.....	23.5.
as Sodium Chloride.....	38.72
Hardness, temporary.....	215.0
" permanent.....	15.0
" total.....	230.0
Total Solids.....	371.0
pH value.....	7.3
Metals:- Trace of Iron, Lead, copper, zinc absent.	
Appearance:- colourless and clear.	
Odour:- None	
Free Chlorine:	

REMARKS:- This is a clear bright water, neutral in reaction and of good organic life.

The results give no indication of any form of pollution to the borehole, and in my opinion the water is very suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

25th October, 1956.

Arthur S. Carlos. F. Sc (Lond)
Public Analyst.

Black Lane Pumping Station - Shallow Well

16th October, 1956.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results:- as parts per million.

Ammonia, free.....	0.007
Ammonid, Albuminoid.....	0.504
Nitrites.....	Nil
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen	4.60
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 deg. F.....	0.093
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 deg. F.....	0.327
Chlorine.....	23.0
as Sodium Chloride.....	37.90
Hardness, temporary.	222.5
" permanent.....	30.0
" total.	252.5
Total solids.....	410.0
pH value.....	7.3
Metals:- Iron trace, Copper, lead, zinc absent.	
Appearance:- Colourless and clear.	

Ammonia, free.....	10.90
Ammonia, albuminoid.....	2.52
Nitrites.....	0.77
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	11.12
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 80 degs. F.....	20.16
Chlorides.....	66.5
Suspended solids.....	57.0
Dissolved solids.....	686.0
Total solids.....	743.0
pH value.....	7.2

Incubator Closed Test:-

Oxygen absorbed in three mins. before incubation.....	7.20
Oxygen absorbed after 5 days incubation.....	4.73
Colour after incubation.....	Unchanged.
Odour after incubation.....	None.
Dissolved oxygen absorbed in five days.....	29.0
Copper.....	
Impurity figure.....	22.7
McGowan's figure.....	
Percentage oxidation of the Nitrogen.....	28.8

Remarks:- This effluent fails to comply with the requirements of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. The suspended solids and dissolved oxygen absorbed in five days exceed the limits by 27.0 and 9.0 parts per million respectively.

Further, the figure for percentage oxidation of the nitrogen is very low and indicates that the effluent is not satisfactorily aerated during its passage through the filters.

5. Highways

The following works have been carried out during the year on the borough maintained highways:-

Alfred Street - resurfacing footpaths etc. Langton Crescent - resurfacing footpaths etc. The Plocks - new length of footpath. Fairfield Road- resurfacing footpath etc.

Normal patching and maintenance work of other highways has been carried out by the Council's workmen.

There are now 3.043 miles of highway maintained by the Council and the of street lights at 31st December was 154 (all types)

6. Refuse Collection.

The refuse service has worked very smoothly during the year without many complaints.

The incinerator is now practically unusable and I would recommend its dismantling and sale of the iron work.

Salvaged material has brought in a total of £95.1.5 during the year, but of this the workmen have received their usual bonuses.

The area available for refuse tipping is quickly being used up and I would advise that another site be selected and the necessary Planning permission obtained in the near future.

7. Swimming Baths.

The Swimming Baths were opened for the season to the public on the 28th April, 1956 and closed again on the 13th September, 1956.

The usual care and precautions were taken to ensure a safe water for bathing and frequent tests for chlorine content were made by the attendant.

A total of 12 samples of bath water were submitted for bacteriological examination during the season. Of these 10 were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory. The defect in the bath bottom has steadily worsened during the season and I am therefore very pleased that the Council have approved my scheme of improvement which I hope will be put into effect before the 1957 season.

RODENT CONTROL

The following report compiled by the Rodent Officer is set forth for your information:-

Rodent Officer's Report for year ending 31st December, 1956.

PREVALENCE OF INFESTATION

No. of properties in the Local Authority's area in which infestation was discovered.

Infested by Rats. Serious infestations of Mice.

Local Authority properties.....	3	Nil
Dwelling houses and domestic premises.25		3
Business premises (non-agricultural)	6	4
Agricultural properties.....	Nil	Nil

MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

No. of properties inspected. No. of properties treated.
As a result of notification. by L.A.
Otherwise.

Local Authority properties.	Nil	14	3
Dwelling houses.....	17	100	28
Business premises (non-agric.)	8	71	5
Agricultural properties.....	Nil	1	Nil

REMARKS

As conditions in the Borough were better than in the Rural District I have spent less time in survey work in the Borough during 1956, but have kept a constant watch on those areas in the Borough most prone to reinfestation.

The Refuse Tip and the Sewage Disposal Works have been kept practically clear of infestation during the year. The sewers were tested in April and showed no sign of infestation.

Business Premises with infestations which were not treated by me were treated either by the occupiers under my supervision or by private contractors.

Housing.

(a) Council Houses.

Houses completed during the year.....	25.
Houses started but still under construction at the close of the year.....	27

The Council houses completed are made up as follows:-

Two bedroomed houses.....	10
Three bedroomed houses.....	6
Three bedroomed "Teachers" houses.....	9

The total number of Council houses is now 347 plus six dwellings owned but not built by the Council (old properties)

Private houses.

(b) The number of private houses built and occupied during the year was nil. There was however; one bungalow started in October and is still under construction.

(c) Improvement Grants.

A total of nine dwellings have been improved during the year under the Housing Acts Improvement Grant provisions and have been re-classified accordingly.

(d) Slum Clearance.

It may help the Council in their slum clearance programme if owners of Class 3 and 4 houses could be encouraged to improve their properties before serious intervention on the Council's part is taken.

This could be done I suggest, by circularising selected owners of this class of property suggesting they discuss the matter with the appropriate officer of the Council as a first step before submitting proposals. In this way it would be possible to form an idea as to whether the property to be improved or reconditioned would attract an Improvement Grant

FACTORIES

Number of Factories without Power..... 6

Number of Factories with Power.....36

Outworkers in the district during 1956... 34

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

(a) Food condemned during the year.

Tinned Tomatoes..... 9 lbs

Tinned String Beans..... 3 lbs.

(b) Meat and Fish condemned during the year.

Tinned ox tongue..... 7 lbs

Tinned corn beef..... $2\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.

Tinned Mince Leaf.Loaf..... $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs

Tinned Pork Luncheon Meat..... $9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs

Tinned Ham.. .. 10 lbs

Tinned Shrimps..... $\frac{1}{2}$ lb

Tinned Lobster..... $11\frac{1}{4}$ lbs

Fish cakes..... 14 dozen

Ox Kidneys..... $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs

Beef..... 123 lbs.

(c) Meat Condemned by Meat Inspector at Slaughterhouse during the year.

INSPECTED.

Cattle..... 717

Cows..... 300

Cavles..... 8

Sheep..... 707

Pigs..... 7831.

CONDEMNED

Offal.

Meat

T.B. Offal

T.B. Meat

7546 lbs.

1167 lbs.

925 lbs.

5429 lbs.

Part Carcases condemned for T.B. - 45 cattle,
54 cows, 103 pigs.

Whole Carcases condemned for T.B. - 6 cows.

(d) List of Food Premises.

Hotels, Inns, Public Houses and Wine Merchants.....	22
Sweet shops.....	13
Grocers Shops.....	15
Cafes and Cafes with shops.....	11
Dutchers and Cooked Meat Shops.....	7
Fish Merchants and Fried Fish Shops.....	4
Greengrocers and Fruit Shops.....	6
Confectioners and Bread Shops.....	4
Bakeries.....	3
Ice Cream Premises.....	23

(e) Ice Cream Premises.

The number of registered ice cream premises is now 23. There have been two cancellations and two new registrations during the year.

A total of 14 ice cream samples have been submitted during the year to the Public Health Laboratory for testing for cleanliness. The results are interpreted by the Bacteriologist in Grades I and IV.

Grade I highly satisfactory, Grade II satisfactory, Grade III suspicious, and Grade IV, unsatisfactory.

The samples taken fall into the following grades:-

Grade I - 14. Grade II - Nil. Grade III - Nil. Grade IV - Nil.

There were also 7 iced lolly and lolly cream samples submitted for Bacteriological test and these were all proved to be safe.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

Number of Registered Distributors of Milk..... 8

Number of Licences issued for the sale of
Special Designated Milk during 1956..... 10

